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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Soviet Cars in Rumania

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1. [redacted] Avtex at Strada Slatineanu No. 9B, Bucharest. The firm, operated by Victor and Corneliu Zaharia, was the Hudson car representative in Bucharest, and also repaired private cars. The shop had about 60 employees.
2. In September 1948 the shop was taken over by Nicolas Dumitru, an engineer who had another work shop at Strada Stefan Cel Mare No. 174. Later, the shop became the representative for Zis, Pobeda, and Moskovici cars imported from the Soviet Union. The shop also repaired these makes of cars. The shop made an agreement with the Czech car agency in Bucharest, Kovostroy, and repaired Czech cars such as Skoda, Praga, Tatra, and Aero.
3. Before nationalization, the shop was taken over by the Administration of Soviet Goods Enterprise and was renamed Motorex. The main office was at Strada Doamnei No. 14. The Director was Benjamin Degen, and the president of the committee of the work shop was Grigore Proscanu, a member of the Rumanian Communist Party. Later, Proscanu was named Director and Constantin Toma, also a member of the Rumanian Communist Party, became president of the committee. At this time the shop had about 70 or 80 employees.
4. In April 1950 the shop was taken over by the Ministry of Foreign Commerce and was named Technoimport. Proscanu remained the Director, and the Coordinating Director was Mihai Petri. The chief of the cadre was Nicolae Ciobanu.
5. The firm imported about 200 to 250 vehicles from the Soviet Union each month; about 10 to 15 per cent of the number were cars, and the remainder were trucks. The trucks were four-ton Zis trucks which have four rear and two front wheels. These trucks were destined for the Army. The firm also imported, mostly from the Soviet Union, spare parts for agricultural machinery, technical instruments, tires, bicycles, motorcycles, radios, et cetera.
6. The Zis is a very expensive, 12 cylinder, eight-passenger car. The speedometer dial is calibrated up to 180 kilometers per hour, but the actual speed of the car is about 140 kilometers per hour. It uses 70 liters of .

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- 2 -



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gas per 100 kilometers. It is for the use of Ministers, the military, and government officials only.

7. The Moskovici, a smaller car, resembles the Opel Olympia. The Pobeda (Victory) is an eight cylinder car.

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